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that. And also, we can cap it at \$1 million a year total cost. What if we have an outstanding bunch of teachers that decide that they're not going to ask for state aid, they're just going to go for the certification? Is that then fair to them? I don't know that that would happen. Here again I'm just using that as an example. Are we dealing in a form of proto-elitism? I don't know if that's a good word. Are we raising up an artificial elite, and do they deserve the reward that we propose giving them in this legislation? I am going to stop my close (sic) there and see if anybody else has any comment because I think this is a serious subject, it deserves serious debate. The one thing I don't want to do is I do not want to impede the passage of LB 1399. I said earlier that I think LB 1399 is a good idea, we should put it forward, we should have it done. And the only thing that worries me is that having all those facts and figures and information we will then proceed to contemplate them and do nothing, that's the greatest evil that we could do on this subject. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. We are now open for discussion on the Tyson amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Bohlke. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. I rise in opposition to the amendment. And since we really haven't had much time and I haven't had much time to talk about the bill because I've been talking about amendments, I now will talk about the original bill, which is in the committee amendments that the Education Committee advanced. What this is about is rewarding our highest quality teachers in Nebraska and encouraging them to stay and showing people, who are interested in the possibility of teaching, a career path that we currently don't have. One of the things that I do in the summer is take walks in the neighborhood and I spend a lot of time walking with a few other people who happen to be teachers, who are more in my...a couple of whom are in my age bracket. One of the points that they made to me, when we talked about this issue, that really got me fired up about this particular idea, which had been under discussion for a while, is what people, when they look at the profession right now, want to be able to have a career path where they know they would be rewarded for the quality of their teaching, where